

## SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION (CLEAN COPY WITHOUT MARK-UPS)

### CLAIMS

Claim 1. An automated method to improve an organization's safety culture by enhancing organizational communications, said method comprising:

a means of collecting and communicating issues and concerns from workers and managers wherein said communications are:

initiated by any worker or manager at any time;

specifically solicited or accepted for input on a case-basis or periodically;

submitted with or without originator anonymity;

submitted with or without the approval of other workers, managers, or supervisors; and

processed by one or more of a plurality of computer software programs and transmitted to senior managers, public, or regulators.

Claim 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer software programs also include a means of peer-review and concurrence, thus increasing issue and concern validity and providing a means of reducing or avoiding reprisals against individual whistleblowers, said peer reviews being accomplished by computer software means (within the current state of the art) such as by use of:

peer identification data fields such as names or employee numbers, or

inclusion in databases and reports as separate means for screening for peer-review status.

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Claim 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the mentioned computer software programs include a means to present a summary of said issues and concerns for the organization, wherein said summary is examined and safety culture related conclusions reached by regulators and those persons having an economic interest in the organization, thus enabling an additional means external to the organization for enhancing the safety culture within the organization based on or resulting from the methods of the current invention.